

Explanation of Topics:

History – Address the background that brought new population groups to Iowa – you may choose a specific immigrant population or do this generally. What other groups have historically immigrated to Iowa?

Culture – Explain Iowa immigrant cultures (or culture, if you chose a specific one). How does this differ from more “mainstream” traditions? How do they meld or create conflict?

Challenges – What challenges have immigrants faced? What challenges do new immigrants face? How can they be addressed?

Tolerance/awareness – What are the most important things people should know about melding cultures? How do we show tolerance? Why are these two words so important?

Changes – What changes have Iowans faced or do Iowans need to make to make this the best possible place to live for everyone?

Creating your module is a group activity that will not actually involve much group work. Your group will create a central site (WikiSpace, Google Site, etc) to which you will each upload your piece of the module. Individually, you will create a piece of the group module based on the topic you chose: history, culture, challenges, tolerance/awareness, or changes.

The checklist below will help you better understand what should be included in your module. If you have not completed your checklist, your project will not be graded. You will also write a short (200–400 words) essay that you will submit to a newspaper about the importance of multicultural education. Finally, as a group, you will write a letter to Governor Branstad and Education Director Jason Glass that explains to them why multicultural education is important (a compilation of your letters to the editor, maybe) and provides them with a link to view your module.

Your piece of the module should include:

_____ An entry activity (like the video we saw) that interests and engages students. It should be relevant to the students lives and relate to your topic.

_____ A historical information section - use some of what we have learned in class to connect to your piece of the module. When in history did something similar to this occur? This will be about 2-3 paragraphs. Questions to consider to help you write this:

-History: A brief history of population and migration over time - sum up what we have covered in class

-Culture: Explain about a time that cultures have had to meld, or have clashed, and the results of the incident.

-Challenges: What challenges have been faced by growing populations or migrating cultures over time? How did they overcome those challenges?

-Tolerance/Awareness: Why is it important to show tolerance or be aware of surrounding cultures? Historically, what could cultures have learned by being more tolerant or aware of others' cultures?

-Changes: What adjustments or changes have societies made historically to address population changes or in influx of immigrants?

_____ A video: This will probably be from YouTube or an education site, but you are welcome to create your own. Videos provide students with another way to obtain information or comprehend things in a new/different way.

_____ A discussion question: This can relate to your video, to your historical piece, or both. Provide an opportunity for students to reflect on their new learning. A good discussion question inspires critical thinking skills. It does not have a right or wrong answer and cannot be answered with a simple "yes" or "no".

_____ An assignment. This can be a project or writing assignment, but it must be meaningful. It should encourage students to think about different cultures, how people interact, and how we can learn from history. Try using words like "analyze", "evaluate", "create", etc. to encourage higher order thinking skills. Examples: Create a brochure, analyze the impact of population and migration in your community by writing a _____. Evaluate the impact of a change in the local English Language Learner population by writing a proposal to create or eliminate an ELL program at your school.

_____ An example of the assignment: Complete your assignment and upload it as an example for future students to preview.

_____ At least 2 links to resources that might help students better understand the topic. This should include 1 or 2 sentences that describe why you included that specific website.

The communication piece of this project will come in the form of your letter to the Gov/Jason Glass and your Letter to the Editor. Being able to clearly express your ideas is both a good life skill and enables me to better gauge your understanding of the topics. The public audience provides an authentic audience and adds validity to your project.